

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 EURE-00 /134 W

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P R 241206Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0642

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK(NI)

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE TO PHASE IN SUNNINGDALE: LOYALISTS  
STILL PRESS FOR NEW ELECTIONS

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED BY CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST:

BEGIN SUMMARY. NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE MAY 22 ANNOUNCED A PLAN TO GO AHEAD WITH APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND POLICING PROVISIONS OF SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT, BUT TO DEFER TRANSFER OF EXECUTIVE POWERS AND CREATION OF LEGISLATIVE TIER OF COUNCIL UNTIL AFTER NEXT ASSEMBLY ELECTION IN 1977-78. NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO AGREEMENT ALMOST LED TO BREAKUP OF EXECUTIVE, BUT IT REMAINS INTACT. LOYALISTS DISMISSED STATEMENT, BUT EXECUTIVE HOPE IT WILL MEET GREATEST PROTESTANT FEARS ABOUT COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND SO UNDERMINE SUPPORT FOR STRIKE AND DEMAND FOR NEW ELECTION. AGREEMENT SHOWS EXECUTIVE'S WILL TO SURVIVE, AND WAS

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FIRST RECENT OCCASION IN WHICH HMG DID NOT LEAN ON

UNIONISTS AND IN WHICH SDLP CONCEDED MORE THAN UNIONISTS. TIMING OF STATEMENT MADE IT SEEM LIKE CONCESSION TO LOYALISTS, WHETTING THEIR APPETITES FOR MORE. AT THE SAME TIME EXECUTIVE'S REJECTION OF EARLY ELECTIONS AND REFUSAL TO TALK WITH STRIKERS WEAKENS PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE IN WHICH LOYALISTS WOULD MAKE CONCESSIONS AND HAVE STAKE. END SUMMARY.

1. NI EXECUTIVE MAY 22 ANNOUNCED PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT WHICH WILL DEFER GRANTING OF EXECUTIVE POWERS AND CREATION OF LEGISLATIVE TIER OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND UNTIL AFTER NI POPULAR CONSENT TESTED, HOPEFULLY IN NEXT REGULAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS THREE-FOUR YEARS HENCE.

2. EXECUTIVE STATEMENT READ IN ASSEMBLY BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE FAULKNER, SAID EXECUTIVE IS DETERMINED TO ACT FOR BENEFIT OF WHOLE NI COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT LIFETIME OF CURRENT ASSEMBLY, STAND BY CONSTITUTION ACT AND SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT, BUT RECOGNIZES NEED TO PROCEED ON BASIS OF GENERAL POPULAR CONSENT. EXECUTIVE WILL SEEK EARLY MEETING WITH OTHER SUNNINGDALE PARTIES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNIQUE, AND THEREAFTER APPOINT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PROVIDE FORUM FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN NI EXECUTIVE AND GOI IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC MATTERS INDICATED IN SUNNINGDALE PARA 8 AND TO UNDERTAKE RESPONSIBILITIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLICING IN SUNNINGDALE PARAS LL AND L5. IT WOULD MEET ALTERNATIVELY IN NORTH AND SOUTH, AND HAVE STAFF ON DETAIL FROM TWO GOVERNMENTS.

3. FURTHER STEPS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF SUNNINGDALE WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER TEST OF OPINION OF NI ELECTORATE--NEXT ASSEMBLY ELECTION "(I.E. THAT WHICH WILL BE DUE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION ACT IN 1977-78)." THEREAFTER, WITH CONSENT OF ASSEMBLY, LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO TRANSFER FUNCTIONS TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WHICH WOULD APPOINT SECRETARY-GENERAL AND PERMANENT STAFF TO DEAL WITH THEM, AND DETERMINE LOCATION OF PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS, AND MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DAIL WOULD BE NOMINATED TO CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY.

4. STATEMENT COMES AFTER WEEKS OF TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS, DURING WHICH REPORTEDLY FAULKNER AND/OR TWO SDLP MINISTERS THREATENED TO RESIGN AND SDLP ASSEMBLY PARTY REJECTION OF ITS TERMS OR AT LEAST ITS TIMING WAS OVERCOME ONLY BY INTERVENTION OF NI MINSTATE ORME, WHO POINTED OUT IT WOULD LEAD TO COLLAPSE OF EXECUTIVE AND

NEW ELECTIONS LOYALISTS ARE DEMANDING. ALTHOUGH ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT REFER TO STRIKE AND EXECUTIVE, EXCEPT FOR ROY BRADFORD, REMAINS OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATING WITH STRIKERS, HOPE IS THAT DEFERRAL OF THOSE ELEMENTS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND MOST ABHORRENT TO PROTESTANTS WILL UNDERMINE PROTESTANT SUPPORT FOR STRIKE AND NEW ELECTIONS DEMAND. ONE PRESS REPORT SAYS HMG WILL RELEASE MORE

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 EURE-00 /134 W

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P R 241206Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0643

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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DETAINÉES TO ASSUAGE SDLP'S DISAPPOINTMENT.

5. LOYALISTS POLITICIAN AND UWC HAVE DISMISSED EXECUTIVE STATEMENT AND VOWED TO CONTINUE STRIKE UNTIL NEW ELECTIONS ARE GRANTED.

6. (UNIONISTS) NEWSLETTER CRITICIZED EXECUTIVE STATEMENT IN CONTEXT OF EXECUTIVE AND BRITISH POLICY IN LEADER HEADED, "EXERCISE IN DECEIT." ON OTHER HAND, (CATHOLIC) IRISH NEWS FEARED THAT STATEMENT, WHILE DEFERRING HOPES FOR UNITED IRELAND HOPE, WOULD ONLY WHET

LOYALISTS APPETITE FOR MORE CONCESSIONS. (MODERATE)  
BELFAST TELEGRAPH SAID STATEMENT WAS ONLY RECOGNITION OF  
NEED FOR POPULAR CONSENT FOR POLITICAL INSTITUTION,  
PRAISED SDLP FOR STATESMANSHIP IN DEFERRING HOPES, BUT  
URGED NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS LEST POWER-SHARING BE LOST  
AND NI DISINTEGRATE INTO CIVIL STRIFE, ABANDONED BY  
BRITAIN.

7. COMMENT: EXECUTIVE'S ABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON  
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FORMULA 4 PHASING SUNNINGDALE DEMONSTRATES ITS WILL TO  
LIVE AND TO SUSTAIN POWER-SHARING DESPITE CONFLICTING  
PRESSURES ON IT. NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO STATEMENT ARE  
FIRST IN RECENT YEARS IN WHICH HMG APPARENTLY DID NOT  
PRESSURE UNIONISTS TO GIVE WAY TO CATHOLICS AND IN WHICH  
SDLP CONCEDED MORE THAN UNIONISTS. FORMULA  
TAKES ACCOUNT OF PROTESTANT FEARS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND,  
BUT ITS TIMING MADE IT APPEAR TO BE CAPITULATION TO  
STRIKERS, ENCOURAGING LATTER TO HOPE THAT MORE PRESSURE  
WILL BRING MORE CONCESSIONS. AT SAME TIME, EXECUTIVE'S  
FIRM REJECTION OF EARLY ELECTION, AND OF TALKS BY ITSELF  
OR NI SECSTATE WITH STRIKERS, LEAVES LATTER ALIENATED.  
POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS FROM  
LOYALISTS AS PART OF SETTLEMENT IS THUS PRECLUDED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT, ELECTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Review Date:** 21 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, UK, EI  
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**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005